

Kearsley Urban District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,  
(ALEXANDER G. GLASS, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.)

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector.  
(F. BROOK, M.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.)



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## Members of the Sanitary Committee.



*Chairman :*

Councillor R. C. SMITH.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor S. STREET

*Members :*

Councillor Mrs. A. M. HOGG. J.P.

„ H. BARRETT.

„ J. H. BROOKS.

„ J. CRANSHAW.

„ J. FOX.

„ W. HOLEHOUSE.

„ E. HOWARD.

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„ R. MATTHEWS, J.P., C.C.

„ S. J. MORGAN.

„ A. PLANT.

„ J. E. ROBEY.

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.*

MRS. HOGG AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report on the health of the Urban District of Kearsley for the year 1937.

The health of the district has been good.

The Birth Rate continues its downward trend. It has reached the stage when Birth Rate and Death Rate are about equally balanced.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 29 per 1000 registered births is the lowest on record for Kearsley, except for the year 1928 when it fell to 21.

The County Scheme for a domiciliary service of midwives is now in force. It will provide a skilled midwifery service for every woman who wants to have her confinement at home.

Satisfactory progress was made in dealing with insanitary property.

Inquires were held respecting 23 Clearance Areas, involving 125 houses, and a population of 413. Further, Official Representations were made regarding 6 Areas, involving 43 houses, and a population of 155.

There has been a marked fall in notified cases of diphtheria. During the year only 7 cases were notified, against 45 in 1936. and 30 in 1935.

The response to the Council's offer of immunisation has been poor.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. GLASS.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA—1720 statute acres approx.  
POPULATION—Estimated 1937—10,750,  
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1937  
    according to the rate-books ... .. 3,167.  
Rateable value ... £81,266.  
Sum represented by a penny rate ... £325.

Social Conditions.

The population is mainly of the working class. The principal employment is in connection with the textile and the coal mining industries.

Meteorological Notes for 1937\*

Total sunshine ... .. 1028.0 hours  
Temperature : Highest ... 80.2° (August 1st).  
                  Lowest ... 21.6° (Dec. 18th).  
                  Mean ... 48.21°  
Rainfall : Maximum in one day ... 1.260" (Jan. 5th)  
            Total, 1937 ... 35.894"  
            Average, 1887-1937... 42.225"

\*This information has been kindly supplied by Mr. E. Hendy, Bolton.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.
Births : Legitimate ... ..	135	64	71
Illegitimate ... ..	1	1	—
Birth-rate per 1000 population, 12.6			
Still Births ... ..	9	4	5
Rate per 1000 total births, 62			
	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.
Deaths ... ..	138	69	69
Crude Death rate per 1000 population, 12.8			

As the age and sex group components vary greatly in different towns, a just comparison cannot be made on "crude" death rates alone. The Registrar General has therefore introduced what he calls a "comparability factor" for each district. That for Kearsley is 1.10. For comparative purposes, therefore, the "crude" death rate has to be multiplied by that factor, which gives for Kearsley an "adjusted" death rate of 14.0 per 1000.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—1.  
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ... ..	4	1	3
Illegitimate ... ..	nil	nil	nil
Infantile Mortality Rate, 29 per 1000 births.			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	...	nil

TABLE I.  
Rates per 1000 Population.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Tubercu- losis Death-rate (Respira- tory)	Infantile Mortality Rate.	Maternal Mortal- ity Rate
Mean of 5 years :					
1895-1899 ... ..	30.8	17.5	1.18	185	
1900-1904 ... ..	29.2	17.2	1.02	193	
1905-1909 ... ..	26.0	14.5	0.80	150	
1910-1914 ... ..	22.9	13.7	0.91	147	
1915-1919 ... ..	20.0	15.8	0.73	122	
1920-1924 ... ..	20.6	12.4	0.81	102	
1925-1929 ... ..	14.6	11.6	0.86	68	2.65
1930-1934 ... ..	13.5	12.0	0.42	54	1.32
1931-1935 ... ..	13.7	12.4	0.41	47	1.32
1932-1936 ... ..	13.6	13.0	0.38	51	2.57
Year :					
1925... ..	15.7	10.3	0.38	79	
1926... ..	17.6	11.0	0.75	96	
1927... ..	12.9	10.9	0.76	66	
1928... ..	13.4	12.7	1.44	21	
1929... ..	13.4	13.3	0.98	80	nil
1930... ..	13.4	9.8	0.39	88	nil
1931... ..	13.9	11.0	0.40	51	nil
1932... ..	15.1	11.4	0.30	33	nil
1933... ..	12.9	15.4	0.55	43	6.62
1934... ..	12.3	12.6	0.45	58	nil
1935... ..	14.5	12.0	0.36	50	nil
1936... ..	13.6	13.8	0.27	73	6.25
1937... ..	12.6	12.8	0.37	29	6.89
Increase or decrease in 1937 on ... ..					
Mean of 5 years :					
1932-1936 ... ..	—1.0	—0.2	—0.01	—22	+4.32
Previous year ... ..	—1.0	—1.0	+0.10	—44	+0.64

TABLE II.

Showing Birth Rates, Death Rates, and Infantile Mortality Rates for Kearsley since 1912, compared with England and Wales.

Year.	Birth Rates.		Death Rates.		Infantile Mortality Rates.	
	England & Wales	Kearsley.	England & Wales	Kearsley.	England & Wales.	Kearsley.
1912	23.9	20.5	13.0	12.0	95	115
1913	24.1	24.0	13.5	13.1	108	157
1914	23.8	22.4	13.7	13.2	105	135
1915	21.9	21.7	14.8	16.3	110	153
1916	20.9	19.0	13.4	14.1	91	143
1917	17.8	19.8	13.5	15.0	96	101
1918	17.7	18.4	17.1	17.5	97	122
1919	18.5	21.3	13.3	15.9	89	91
1920	25.4	24.3	12.1	12.7	80	118
1921	22.4	24.7	11.5	12.6	83	139
1922	20.6	16.7	12.9	10.5	77	84
1923	19.7	18.9	11.6	14.4	69	88
1924	18.8	18.8	12.2	12.2	75	82
1925	18.3	15.7	12.2	10.3	75	79
1926	17.8	17.6	11.6	11.0	70	96
1927	16.7	12.9	12.3	10.9	69	66
1928	16.7	13.4	11.7	12.7	65	21
1929	16.3	13.4	13.4	13.3	74	80
1930	16.3	13.4	11.4	9.8	60	88
1931	15.8	13.9	12.3	11.0	66	51
1932	15.3	15.1	12.0	11.4	65	33
1933	14.4	12.9	12.3	15.4	64	43
1934	14.8	12.3	11.8	12.6	59	58
1935	14.7	14.5	11.7	12.0	57	50
1936	14.8	13.6	12.1	13.8	59	73
1937	14.9	12.6	12.4	*12.8	58	29

\* Crude.



### Causes of Death in 1937.

Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
TOTAL								138

59% of the deaths were caused by the undermentioned diseases. For purposes of comparison the corresponding figures for the six previous years are given :—

TABLE III.

Causes of Death.				Number of Deaths.						
				1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	4	4	9	6	4	7	6
Heart Disease	...	...	...	15	13	30	24	35	24	31
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	10	13	9	7	5	14	10
Cancer	...	...	...	11	16	23	16	13	20	16
Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	...	...	5	4	7	5	4	4	6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	6	13	3	2	12	8
Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...	...	10	6	9	9	10	8	5

### **Births.**

134 live births were registered in Kearsley during the year. Allowing for inward and outward transfers, the number of births to be assigned to the district was 136, giving a birth-rate of 12.6 per 1000 of the population. This is a decrease of —1.0 per 1000 on the period 1932–1936. (See Table I.). The birth-rate for England and Wales was 14.9.

### **Deaths.**

The number of deaths registered in Kearsley during 1937 was 111. After allowing for inward and outward transfers the number belonging to the district was 138, giving a death-rate of 12.8 per 1000 of the population, against a figure of 12.4 for England and Wales. This is an decrease of 1.0 per 1000 on the 1936 rate.

### **Infant Mortality.**

During the year 4 deaths occurred of children under 12 months of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 29 per 1000 registered births, against a rate of 58 for the whole of England and Wales.

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## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

### **Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**

Medical Officer of Health—Alexander G. Glass, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary and Meat Inspector—F. Brook, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerks—T. Shaw (part time) ; Miss B. Wolstencroft (part time).

### **Professional Nursing in the Home.**

#### **(a) GENERAL.**

This is carried out entirely by the District Nursing and the Stone-clough Nursing Associations, who each employs one qualified nurse in the district. These associations are voluntary, and depend on free-will contributions. They have no official connection with the Local Authority. Each Association received a grant of £10 from the Council. They are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

#### **(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

There is no domiciliary nursing service for infectious diseases. In cases of measles, whooping cough, etc., the County Health Visitor advises parents in regard to management and treatment.

**Midwives.**

The Lancashire County Council is the supervising Authority.

With the passing of the Midwives Act, 1936, and the new County Council Scheme, the whole service has been re-organised. Kearsley now forms part of a district which includes Radcliffe, Little Lever, Farnworth, Whitefield and Prestwich. This district has an area of 14,806 acres, and in 1935 the number of domiciliary births was 757. Eight midwives have been allotted to the combined district, of whom one is resident in Kearsley.

**Public Health Legislation in Force in the Area.**

	Name.	Operative from
Local Acts	Nil	
Local Orders	Nil ... ..	...
Adoptive Acts	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Part III. ... ..	1898
	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Parts II., III. IV. (except Secs. 61 and 67) V. ...	1909
	Part VI. ... ..	1914
	Part X. (Sec. 95) ... ..	1924
	Public Health Act, 1925 (except Part IX). ... ..	1926
	New Streets and Buildings ... ..	1925
	Local Byelaws	
	Nuisances ... ..	1898
	Slaughterhouses ... ..	1898
	Common Lodging Houses ... ..	1898
	Tripe Boiling ... ..	1898

The Acts and Byelaws are all enforced.



## **Laboratory Facilities.**

The examination of clinical material (blood, swabs, &c.) is done at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester. Milk samples are also examined there.

The examination of sputum is carried out by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee, free of charge to the Local Authority.

## **Hospitals available for the Area.**

Townleys Hospital, with over 500 beds, is within easy reach, and is under the administrative control of Bolton Corporation.

Bolton Infirmary, with 226 beds, is readily accessible by tram, 'bus, or train.

There are also large hospitals in the Manchester and Salford area to which Kearsley patients are frequently sent.

All these institutions have medical and surgical wards, and are equipped with every modern facility for diagnosis and treatment.

In addition to these general hospitals, there is provision for children at Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury (190 beds).

With the exception of Townleys Hospital, all are voluntary institutions.

Specialised classes of defect, e.g., tuberculosis, venereal disease, orthopaedics, &c., are amply provided for.

The following is a brief summary of the provision available, and the relationship of the Local Authority to the various hospitals.

### **(1) TUBERCULOSIS.**

Close co-operation exists between the medical practitioners and the Tuberculosis Dispensary, cases being regularly referred to the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer by them. There is a trained Dispensary nurse whose whole time is spent in visiting tuberculous cases at home, and she gives such actual nursing and dressing as may be required. At the Dispensary aspirations are regularly done, plasters are occasionally applied, and the nurse dresses cases requiring such attention.

Cases requiring X-ray examination have this arranged for at the Eccles Dispensary, their fares being usually paid.

The County Council have over 900 beds at various institutions, some of which belong to the County Council.



## (2) MATERNITY.

Townleys Hospital, Farnworth, is available for cases of labour. This Hospital is under the administration of the Bolton Corporation, and receives no contribution from the Kearsley Council.

Complicated labour cases can also be sent to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, to which the Council pay an annual contribution of £3 3s. 0d.

## (3) CHILDREN.

Children are admitted to :—

- (a) Townleys Hospital (no contribution).
- (b) Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury (annual contribution £3 3s. 0d.).
- (c) Bolton Royal Infirmary (annual contribution £20).

## (4) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (including smallpox)

These cases are sent to Astley Sanatorium, which is under the control of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board. The Board comprises the Borough of Leigh, the Borough of Swinton and Pendlebury and the Urban Districts of Atherton, Golborne, Tyldsley, Abram, Kearsley and Worsley. The Common Fund charges assessable to Kearsley were £536 for the year. In addition, the cost of maintenance of patients amounted to £220 (A deduction of £3 per case amounting to £90 is allowed by the County).

## (5) OTHER HOSPITALS.

- (a) Manchester Royal Infirmary (annual contribution £20).
- (b) Salford Royal Hospital (annual contribution £5).
- (c) Orthopaedics—at Biddulph, under County Council scheme.
- (d) Venereal disease—at Bolton Infirmary, under County Council scheme.
- (e) Maternity cases, puerperal cases, ophthalmia neonatorum, &c., are treated at Townleys Hospital.
- (f) Maternity cases also at St. Mary's, Manchester (annual contribution £3 3s.).

## **Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.**

No institution exists in the area for the reception of unmarried mothers and illegitimate infants. If they are destitute they are received into Townleys, Farnworth. With regard to homeless children, these are provided for by the Public Assistance Committee, who own 10 Cottage Homes, with certified accommodation for 131 children. Each home is under the charge of a foster-mother, who is responsible for its good conduct.

The children are kept until they are 14. On reaching the age of 14 they are interviewed by the Juvenile Employment Officer, who takes steps to secure suitable Employment for them. In most cases they are sent to other districts, and are looked after by an After-care Committee in the district to which they are transferred.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

- (a) For infectious cases—Conveyed by Astley Sanatorium Ambulance.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases—Farnworth U.D.C.'s two motor ambulances, kept at the Fire Station.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

NAME OF CLINIC.	SITUATION.	NATURE OF ACCOMMODATION	PROVIDED BY
M & C. W. Clinic School Clinic (Combined)	Greenwood St., Kearsley	Waiting room and consulting room, with Lavatory accommodation	Lancashire County Council
Venereal Diseases	Offices of Public Health Dept., Howell Croft, N., Bolton	Waiting and ante-rooms, consulting, treatment and irrigation rooms. Lavatory and W.C. accommodation	Bolton Corporation
Tuberculosis	19-23 Darley Street, Farnworth	2 waiting rooms. 2 dressing rooms (male and female). (1 dressing room also being used for treatment). Consulting room, small ante-room, W.C. accommodation.	Lancashire County Council



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

Except for 283 houses in Ringley and Prestolee, the district is supplied by Bolton Corporation. Approximately 3,086 dwelling-houses have a direct supply.

The Bolton water is derived from upland gathering grounds, is soft in nature, and is of pure quality. There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action, and the possibilities of contamination have been reduced to a minimum. The supply is constant, and there is no insufficiency anywhere.

With regard to the water supplied by the Irwell Valley Water Board, analyses of the water taken at various times during the year show that, in the words of the analyst, 'the water is satisfactory for all domestic and drinking purposes.'

There are a few outlying houses along the Canal which get their water supply from wells. The water from these wells is hard, but appears to be suitable for drinking purposes.

The other sanitary circumstances of the area are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

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## HOUSING.

### Housing Statistics for year 1937.

During the year 88 houses were built by the Council under the Housing Acts. In addition, 39 were built by private enterprise, making a total for the year of 127 houses.

#### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	134
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	134
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	... ..	97
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	97
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	97
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	nil

#### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	30
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#### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

##### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	nil
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... ..	nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance Demolition Orders ... ..	17

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING :—

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year... ..	56
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	61
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	395
B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	8
C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	65
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	485

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

### 1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Excluding those built by the Council, 85 per cent. of the houses in Kearsley are of the four-roomed type, with separate yards and fresh water closets, They do not possess larders nor baths, although these can no longer be considered luxuries but necessities, if a decent standard of hygiene is to be maintained.



Excluding Council houses and houses erected by private enterprise over 90 per cent. of the houses are of fair standard—that is to say, they conform more or less to the Building Byelaws, although many are in a state of disrepair. A common defect in these houses is dampness, due principally to two causes: (1) the practice of building solid instead of cavity walls, and (2) the absence or ineffectiveness of the damp course.

## 2. SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES.

Kearsley has, for a small Authority, done very well in the matter of building houses, but, in spite of that, there is still a slight shortage which has been increased by the findings of the overcrowding survey.

## 3. OVERCROWDING.

This is dealt with in the report of the sanitary inspector (see page 28)

## 4. UNHEALTHY AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Two Inquiries were held by the Minister of Health respecting 23 Clearance Areas, containing 125 houses, and a population of 413. The Orders made by the Council were confirmed with 3 minor exceptions.

Official Representations were made during the year respecting 6 Clearance areas containing 43 houses, and a population of 155. The Inquiry had not been held by the end of the year.

Individual Unfit Houses.—Representations were made in regard to 54 such houses. They were dealt with under section 11 of the 1936 Act.

# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received during the year :—

TABLE IV.

GIVING PARTICULARS REGARDING THE NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1937.

CASES NOTIFIED.															
DISEASE.	Total Cases at all Ages.	Years.										Cases admitted to Hospital from the district			Total Deaths
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever ...	35	—	—	4	1	8	13	8	—	1	—	—	23	2	
Diphtheria ...	7	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	7	—	
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	6(all forms)	
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
TOTALS ...	50	1	1	4	1	8	15	9	1	2	5	3	31	8	

TABLE V.

Showing the number of cases of infectious disease which have been notified from 1932 to 1937.

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Scarlet Fever... ..	21	69	67	55	39	35
Diphtheria ... ..	2	12	40	30	45	7
Erysipelas ... ..	6	1	4	2	4	3
Acute and Influenzal Pneumonia...	10	24	13	15	1	5
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	—	2	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	—	2	—	—	—

### Scarlet Fever.

There was a diminished incidence of this disease during the year, only 35 cases having been notified against an average of 54 for the previous three years. The present mildness of the disease leads to lack of precaution on the part of parents, and consequently its spread is almost inevitable. There were two deaths.

### Diphtheria.

7 cases were notified during the year, against an average of 38 for the previous three years. There was no specialised outbreak, the cases being distributed over the district. There were no deaths during the year.

### Immunisation.

Owing to the prevalence of the disease in Kearsley for the past four years, the Council decided to provide free of charge facilities for the immunisation of the children. Much propaganda work was carried out



amongst the schools and the parents, but the result has been disappointing. Since immunisation was begun in 1936, only 107 persons have been protected, including 5 in 1937. This represents approximately 8% of the child population.

Diphtheria does its most deadly work in children under five years of age, and yet mothers have not availed themselves of the protection afforded by immunisation. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that parents who leave their young children unprotected to the ravages of this deadly disease, incur a grave responsibility.

It is gratifying to be able to record that no protected child contracted diphtheria during the year.

### **Diphtheria Antitoxin.**

Antitoxin is provided by the Council free of charge for patients residing within the district. A supply is always available for medical practitioners, and is supplied in phials of 8,000 units and of 1,000 units the former for curative and the latter for prophylactic purposes.

Antitoxin to the amount of 57,000 units was issued to medical men during 1937.

### **Pathological Specimens examined during 1937.**

NATURE OF SPECIMEN.	NUMBER	RESULT POSITIVE.
Throat Swabs (for diphtheria)	... 23	... 6

### **Contacts.**

All cases of notified infectious disease are visited in their homes at the earliest possible moment, and enquiries are made regarding possible sources of infection, insanitary surroundings, etc. The names of contacts are ascertained, and if special action is required regarding them, this is carried out. Children in the house who are attending school are dealt with in accordance with the Memorandum issued conjointly by the Board of Education and the Ministry of Health.



TABLE VI.  
TUBERCULOSIS.  
New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1 ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1— 5 ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5—10 ... ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10—15 ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15—20 ... ..	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
20—25 ... ..	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	1
25—35 ... ..	2	3	-	1	2	1	-	-
35—45 ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45—55 ... ..	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
55—65 ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ... ..	4	8	2	4	2	2	-	2

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths 1 to 6.

Notification of tuberculosis in the district is efficient. No action necessary.

**Statement showing Treatment received during the Year by  
Patients suffering from Tuberculosis, who reside in the  
Area.**

Number of cases :—	Adults.	Children.	TOTAL
Admitted to Sanatoria ... ..	3	—	3
Admitted to Pulmonary Hospitals ...	3	—	3
Admitted to General or Special Hospitals	2	1	3
Granted "Light" Treatment ... ..	—	—	—
Granted Dispensary Supervision with provision of Special nourishments	6	—	6
Granted Dispensary Supervision or Dispensary Treatment ... ..	30	2	32
Under supervision on 31/12/37 ... ..	34	2	36
Granted X-Ray Examination ... ..	26	3	29
The 36 cases under supervision at the end of the year have been classified as follows :			
Pulmonary ... ..	22	—	22
Non-pulmonary ... ..	10	2	12
Combined (pulmonary & non-pulmonary)	2	—	2
Taken off Register as "cured" ... ..	2	—	2

The Dispensary at Darley Street, Farnworth, is open daily for the routine attendance of patients for dressings, etc., and on Tuesday and Fridays for examinations by the Tuberculosis Medical Officer. There is also an evening session on the third Thursday in each month for the benefit of those who are at work during the day.

At the Eccles Dispensary there is an Artificial Light Installation consisting of two 30 ampere carbon arc lamps, one mercury vapour (Jesioneck) lamp, and one water-cooled mercury vapour (Kromayer) lamp.

The "Light" department is working throughout the week, and patients are drawn from all over the area.

#### **Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.**

These Regulations empower the Local Authority to prevent anyone who is suffering from respiratory tuberculosis from taking part in the milking of cows, the treatment of milk, or the handling of vessels used for containing milk.

No action under these Regulations was necessary during the year.

#### **Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62.**

This section empowers a Local Authority to remove compulsorily to hospital infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis whose lodging or accommodation is such that proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection cannot be taken, or that such precautions are not being taken.

No action was taken under this section during the year.

A. G. GLASS.

# URBAN DISTRICT OF KEARSLEY.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year ended 31st December, 1937.

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*To the Chairman and Members of  
the Sanitary Committee.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN, Mrs. HOGG and GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department from 1st January to 31st December, 1937.

### NOTICES.

Fifty-six Preliminary or Informal Notices were served upon owners or occupiers, requiring them to abate nuisances and remedy sanitary defects found in connection with dwelling-houses in the course of inspection.

Five Statutory Notices were served under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875, requiring the remedying of defects at dwelling-houses.



## NUISANCES.

Three hundred and ninety nuisances were reported to the Sanitary Committee ; the following table gives particulars of the nuisances discovered.

Defective pointing and perished brickwork...	...	...	...	...	23
„ drains ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
„ rain-water pipes and eaves troughs	...	...	...	...	10
„ sink waste pipes ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
„ hot water supply pipe ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
„ water closets... ..	...	...	...	...	2
„ ashbins ... ..	...	...	...	...	28
„ doors, floors and skirting boards ...	...	...	...	...	32
„ roofs ... ..	...	...	...	...	17
„ fireplaces ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
„ and untrapped sinks ... ..	...	...	...	...	28
„ window frames, cords, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	13
„ paving to yards ... ..	...	...	...	...	6
„ plaster on walls and ceilings ...	...	...	...	...	36
„ yard gate ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
„ chimney pot ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Choked eaves gutters, drains and sink waste pipes	...	...	...	...	15
„ street gully ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Insanitary dry ashpits ... ..	...	...	...	...	12
House decorations in dirty condition	...	...	...	...	36
Damp walls, floors, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	70
Water gaining access into cellar ...	...	...	...	...	1
House flooded ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Smoky chimneys ... ..	...	...	...	...	3
Verminous houses ... ..	...	...	...	...	13
House not provided with food store ...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses requiring limewashing ...	...	...	...	...	5
Insufficient closet accommodation ...	...	...	...	...	1
Potato washing shed requiring limewashing...	...	...	...	...	1
Leaking gas pipe ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
No ventilation in pantries ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
Burst hot water supply pipes... ..	...	...	...	...	2
Workshop requiring limewashing ...	...	...	...	...	1
Land not effectively drained ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary privy middens ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
No proper refuse accommodation ...	...	...	...	...	4
Insufficient ventilation to workshop...	...	...	...	...	1
No damp-proof courses to houses ...	...	...	...	...	2
Ashbins not provided ... ..	...	...	...	...	2

TOTAL 390



## HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING.

Statement showing number of receptacles emptied during the year.

Month			Privy Middens	Dry Ashpits	Ashbins	Pails	Total Loads removed
January	...	...	8	7	12527	108	112
February	...	...	20	10	12088	121	117
March	...	...	34	1	13241	139	153
April	...	...	8	16	13859	145	150
May	...	...	45	23	13087	131	177
June	...	...	51	7	11751	125	156
July	...	...	34	7	12388	128	180
August	...	...	29	—	13366	133	130
September	...	...	—	—	13274	120	119
October	...	...	35	8	13385	108	146
November	...	...	11	—	13881	119	124
December	...	...	—	—	14020	119	117
			275	79	156867	1496	1681

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Pilkington Road Tip.

This method of tipping continues to be most satisfactory.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows :—

	Fresh Water Closets.	Waste Water Closets.	Dry Ashpits.	Ashbins.	Pails.	Privy Middens.	Privy Closets.
<b>North Ward</b>							
Dwelling-houses	562	13	—	612	5	22	42
Works & Schools	106	—	—	10	—	—	—
<b>South Ward</b>							
Dwelling-houses	1063	3	1	1050	10	32	56
Works & Schools	23	—	—	4	11	—	—
<b>West Ward</b>							
Dwelling-houses	1412	99	6	1460	—	1	1
Works & Schools	56	—	1	13	—	—	—
<b>Total</b> ...      ...	<b>3222</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3149</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>99</b>

During the year two privy middens, with four privy closets attached, were converted into fresh water closets, and four ashbins provided. Half the cost of the conversion was borne by the Council.

Nine privy middens, with fifteen privy closets attached, which were at houses in Clearance Areas, have been demolished.

Thirty-six dry ashpits have been demolished and ashbins substituted.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with :—

<i>Sewage Works.</i>	<i>Method of Treatment.</i>
Clammerclough      ...      ...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks
Main Outfall, Kearsley Green      ...      ...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Unity Brook      ...      ...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks and continuous filter.
Ringley      ...      ...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filter, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee      ...      ...      ...	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tank and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook the sewage is lifted by an automatic electric ejector into a sewer connected with the Main Outfall Works.

A new pumping plant is being fixed at Unity Brook Works.

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The dairies and cowsheds have been inspected on 95 occasions.

Mr. J. Adamson, M.R.C.V.S., has made inspections of all the milch cows in the district, and reports that, on the whole, the cows were found to be in a clean and healthy condition.

The number of Retail Purveyors of Milk on the register is 48. Of this number, 11 are Cowkeepers, the remaining 37 being Purveyors who retail milk which is produced outside the district. Seventeen Purveyors are concerned principally with the sale of bottled milk.

During the year 10 samples of milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for tubercle bacilli examination. Nine of the samples were "negative" and one sample was "positive." Group and individual samples were then taken from all the cows at the farm from which the "positive" sample was obtained, but all the samples on examination proved to be "negative."

The 10 samples of milk were submitted to the bacteriological tests in the manner prescribed for Accredited Milk. All satisfied the methylene blue test, but one failed to satisfy the coliform test.

**NOTE** —Accredited Milk when tested in accordance with the prescribed method must not decolourise methylene blue within  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours if the sample is taken at any time from the 1st May to the 31st October ; or within  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours if the sample is taken at any time from the 1st November to the 30th April. The milk also must not contain coliform bacillus in 1/100 millilitre.



## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are four registered slaughterhouses in the district. Three are in regular use and have been inspected on 188 occasions.

The following table gives the number of carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number inspected ....	177	—	2	151	200
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ....	6	—	—	—	3
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis. ....	3.3	—	—	—	1.5
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ....	2	—	—	—	27
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ....	1.1	—	—	—	13.5

The total weight of the unfit meat was 690 lbs., the whole of which was voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed.

The standard of meat supplied in Kearsley is very good.

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and samples are taken by the police.

Superintendent Turner has kindly notified me that 12 samples of milk were taken during the year.

All the samples were found, on analysis, to be genuine.

## WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND BAKEHOUSES.

Forty-five visits were paid to workshops and workplaces and 40 visits to bakehouses.

The condition of the premises was satisfactory.

The number of workshops and workplaces in the district, and the description of the trade carried on therein, are as follows :—

Tailors	...	...	2	Fried Fish Shops	...	...	18
Boot and Shoe Repairers	...	...	7	Plumbers	...	...	2
Cycle and Motor Repairers	...	...	5	Dressmaker	...	...	1
Blacksmith	...	...	1	Cabinet Maker and			
Milliners	...	...	2	Upholsterer	...	...	1
Saddler	...	...	1	Dental Mechanics	...	...	2
Motor Haulage Contractor	...	...	1	Ice Cream Producers	...	...	4
Motor Breaker	...	...	1	Bakehouses	...	...	21
Printer...	...	...	1				—
Chemical Works	...	...	1				71

### SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

During the year seven observations of factory chimneys were taken, each of 30 minutes' duration.

In no case was the time limit for the emission of black smoke exceeded.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Forty-two visits have been made to houses where infectious diseases have occurred.

Forty-six rooms were disinfected (41 after infectious disease, and 5 after tuberculosis) with the fumes of formaldehyde.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken during the year.

No. of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council houses 6. (b) Other houses —

No. of houses disinfested :—

(a) Council houses 6. (b) Other houses —

Methods employed for freeing infested houses :—

Hydrogen cyanide was used for two houses and insecticide for four houses.

The work of disinfestation by hydrogen cyanide was carried out by Contractors. Where insecticide was used, the work of disinfestation was carried out by the Council's workmen.

To ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses, the Council provides insecticide and disinfectant, and tenants are instructed in the use thereof.

All furniture is inspected by me before a tenant is allowed to move into a Council house.

In order to prevent infestation, or re-infestation after cleansing, Council houses are periodically inspected by me.

## SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Thirteen inspections have been made under the Shops Act, 1934. No action has been taken under the provisions of the Act relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

## HOUSING ACT, 1936.

In conformity with this Act, 97 houses have been inspected.

## OVERCROWDING.

During the year 65 cases of overcrowding have been abated. Of this number, 42 cases have been rehoused in Council houses, the remaining 23 being relieved by general causes such as members of families leaving home on marriage, families leaving the district, and by deaths.

Seventeen four-bedroom type houses were erected to rehouse the larger families, and a further seven houses of this type were in course of erection at the close of the year.

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT,

1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

Visits to Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	42
„ Property under Notice	...	...	...	...	...	403
„ Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	188
„ Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	45
„ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	40
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	95
Inspections in connection with the Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	97
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	70
Inspections of Drains, etc., and Works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	148
General Visits—no nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	520
Inspections in connection with Shops Act, 1934.	...	...	...	...	...	13
						1,661

I am,

Your obedient servant,

FRED BROOK,  
Sanitary Inspector.





